



Missouri Department of Mental Health

Missouri Institute of Mental Health

Substance Abuse Traffic Offenders' Program (SATOP)

Brief 2

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SATOP: Severity of Drinking Problem

Three indicators of drinking/driving problem severity were used in our SATOP December '96/January '97 study of offender-clients at 13 provider sites. These include (1) number of DWIs **including the current arrest**; (2) blood alcohol content level (BAC), and (3) scores on the Mortimer Filkins test, which determines severity of drinking problem.

DWIs

A total of 1,287 (96%) of all offender-clients reported at least one DWI including the current arrest. (Data were missing for the remaining 17%.) The number of DWIs reported ranged from 1 to 7 with an average of a little over 1.5 per offender-client. The average number of DWIs increased as the program intensity increased.

Table 1: Average Number of DWIs by Program

	<i>OEP</i>	<i>WIP</i>	<i>CIP</i>
<i>Average number of DWIs including current arrest</i>	1.1	1.9	2.9

Note: OEP - Offender Education Program, WIP - Weekend Intervention Program, CIP - Clinical Intervention Program

This means that offender-clients in OEPs, on average, had one DWI including the current arrest; while offender-clients in CIPs had almost three times as many DWIs.

BAC

Using a level of .10 or greater as a cutoff, BACs on a little over half (52%) of offender-clients were reported. The following averages show that BAC levels increased with the intensity of program level.

Table 2: Average BACs by Program

	<i>OEP</i>	<i>WIP</i>	<i>CIP</i>
<i>BAC</i>	.14	.16	.17

Mortimer Filkins

The Mortimer Filkins, a test used to identify problem drinkers, classifies persons with scores of 16 and higher as problem drinkers. Scores of 12 to 15 presume the likelihood that a person is a problem drinker, while those of 11 and below indicate that the person is not. Scores for the 1,159 persons who completed the scale at intake to SATOP ranged from 0 to 42 with an average of 10.3. This score would place the average offender-client in the category in which he or she was probably not a problem drinker. Like the BACs and DWIs, however, average scores increased as the intensity of program component increased (see Table 3)



Table 3: Average Mortimer Filkins Scores by Program

	<i>OEP</i>	<i>WIP</i>	<i>CIP</i>
	<i>Averages</i>		
<i>Mortimer Filkins</i>	8.7	11.4	15.8

We also examined Mortimer Filkins classifications by program component. As Table 4 below shows, there were a higher percentage of CIP offender clients with Mortimer Filkins scores above the 12 range.

Conclusion

Number of DWIs, BAC level and scores on the Mortimer Filkins test to identify problem drinkers were all studied. We looked at the average scores on each of these methods to determine severity of drinking/driving problems in relation to the program component attended. Based on the fact that the average scores on each of these items increases as the level of program intensity increases, it appears that the offender-clients attended the appropriate component of SATOP

Table 4: Likelihood of Problem Drinking by Program

Likelihood of Problem Drinking				
	<i>Overall</i>	<i>OEP</i>	<i>WIP</i>	<i>CIP</i>
Probably not (MF <12)	957 (83%)	557 (88%)	338 (81%)	56 (57%)
Highly presumptive evidence (MF 12 - 15)	133 (12%)	62 (10%)	50 (12%)	19 (19%)
Virtually certain evidence (MF > 16)	69 (6%)	13 (2%)	31 (7%)	24 (24%)